



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

08/942,415 10/16/97 KURODA

Y 971154

EXAMINER

LM31/0901

ARMSTRONG WESTERMAN HATTORI
MCLELAND & NAUGHTON
1725 K STREET NW
SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON DC 20006

WALLERSON, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2722

DATE MAILED:

09/01/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/942,415

Applicant(s)
Kuroda et al

Examiner
Mark Wallerson

Group Art Unit
2722



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 21, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2722

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 6/21/2000 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 08/942,415 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.
2. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendments filed on **4/5/2000 and 5/18/2000.**
3. This application has been reconsidered. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2722

5. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima et. al. (hereinafter referred to as Kojima) (U. S. 5,412,490) in view of Ono (U. S. 5,796,496).

With respect to claims 1, 6, and 11, Kojima discloses a printing unit provided with an image reading unit comprising a main body (1); a recorded paper discharge tray (21, figure 3) located at the top of the unit; a document sheet supply tray (6) located below the recorded paper discharge tray (21); a document sheet outlet tray (7) located below the document sheet supply tray (6); a paper cassette (13) located below the document sheet outlet tray (7); a scanning unit (5) for transporting the document sheet from the document sheet supply tray (6) to the document sheet outlet tray (7); a recording part (image forming unit) (15) that transports the recording sheet from the paper cassette (13) to the recording sheet discharge tray (21), with the paper cassette (13), recorded paper discharge tray (21), document sheet supply (6) and document sheet discharge trays (7) being confined within a width of the device if viewed from the left of figure 3.

Kojima differs from claims 1 and 6 in that although he discloses a paper cassette (13) below the document sheet outlet tray (7), he does not clearly disclose a multi-purpose tray below the document sheet outlet tray, and a recording sheet supply part located below the main body and independent of the multi-purpose tray for holding stacked recording sheets which are supplied one at a time, the recording sheet supply part including a paper cassette which is attachable and detachable from the image recording device.

Art Unit: 2722

Ono discloses an image processing system comprising a paper tray (which reads on a multi-purpose tray) (94, figure 1 and column 6, lines 1-2) for holding recording media (column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 2). It is also obvious from figure 1 that a user may be able to load paper sheets directly onto the tray (94). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kojima wherein a multi-purpose tray would be located below the document sheet outlet tray in place of the paper cassette (13). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kojima by the teaching of Ono in order to improve ease of operation by giving the user better access to the recording sheet tray.

Ono also discloses a recording sheet supply part (104) (comprising paper cassettes 98, 100, and 102, figure 1), provided below the main body (2) (which reads on the cassettes (98, 100, and 102 are removably arranged in a pedestal of the copying machine) (column 6, lines 4-6), which are attachable to and detachable from the image recording device (which reads on removably arranged in the copy machine) (column 6, lines 4-6), the paper cassette(s) capable of being manually loaded (which reads on removably arranged in the copy machine) (column 6, lines 4-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kojima wherein a recording paper supply part which is attachable to and detachable from the image recording device would have been installed below a multi-purpose tray. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

Art Unit: 2722

have modified Kojima by the teaching of Ono in order to allow an operator to alternately select different recording sheets as disclosed by Ono in column 6, lines 38-40.

With respect to claims 2 and 7, Kojima discloses the paper cassette (13) (multi-purpose tray) is connected horizontally so that a substantially space is between the paper cassette (13) (multi-purpose tray) and the document sheet outlet tray (7).

With respect to claims 3 and 8, Ono discloses that the recording supply sheet supply part comprises a cassette (column 6, lines 1-20) holding recording sheets in a stacked state (P, figure 1), and the paper cassettes are attachable to and detachable from the image recording device (which reads on removably arranged in the copy machine) (column 6, lines 4-6).

With regard to claim 12, Kojima discloses that the paper cassette (13) (multi-purpose tray) defines the bottom of the recording device (15).

6. Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kojima in view of Ono as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of Sakaue (EUR 0 673 146 A2).

Kojima as modified differs from claims 4, 5, 9, 10, and 13 in that he does not clearly disclose that the operation of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are performed by a user facing at right angles to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction. Sakaue discloses an image processor in which operation of the image recording device and paper cassette insertion/removal actions are performed by a user

Art Unit: 2722

facing at right angles to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction (figure 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the device of Kojima as modified wherein paper cassette insertion/removal actions would be performed by a user facing at right angles to a document transport direction and a recording sheet transport direction. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the device of Kojima as modified in order to achieve ease of use.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 4/5/2000 and 5/19/2000 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant submits, with respect to Ono, that if the paper cassette (92) is removed, the paper tray (94) does not function.

The Examiner will begin by briefly discussing his interpretation of Applicant's invention with respect to the multipurpose tray (6). Applicant discloses that a sufficient space is maintained between the multipurpose tray and the scanner cover (1b) so that lots of paper may be stacked on the multipurpose tray, so that there is no need to have an opening and closing arrangement for the multipurpose tray, and that when paper is to be fed by hand, this removes the necessity of opening and closing the tray each time (page 8 of the original specification). Ono discloses in figure 1, sufficient space above the paper tray (94) to allow a user to place papers on the tray. Papers are

Art Unit: 2722

then delivered from the tray (94) or cassette (92) independently of each other (column 5, line 67 to column 6, line 2). The ample space removes the necessity of opening and closing the tray each time paper has to be loaded. Additionally, there is no indication in Ono that the cassette (92) or tray (94) are removable. Still additionally, the multipurpose tray (94) is independent of the paper cassettes (98, 100, or 102) (figure 1), therefore, if the paper cassette is removed, a user can load a recording sheet on the multipurpose tray (94).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Wallerson whose telephone number is (703) 305-8581.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051 (for formal communications intended for entry)

(703) 308-9589 (for informal or draft communications, such as proposed amendments to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA.
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Application/Control Number: 08/942,415

Page 8

Art Unit: 2722


MARK WALLERSON
PATENT EXAMINER
MARK WALLERSON